

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/768,727

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Applicant(s)

RIPPICH, ANDREAS

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response to office action filed on 7/29/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-17 and 22-27 (renumbered as 1-22).
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicant filed a response to the Final Office Action on 7/29/05.

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 9-18, 20-21, and 22-27 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Samson Helfgott (Reg. No. 23,072) on 8/11/05.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

Please rewrite claim 1 as follows:

"1. A method for displaying a progress and results of a database search until a desired result is displayed, said method comprising the steps of:

a. displaying a set of entries from a database and a set of operators, wherein ones of said displayed set of entries and ones of said displayed set of operators are selected to form a database search query for producing valid results;

b. selecting an initial entry of said displayed set of entries;

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- c. displaying a set of valid results from a query based on said selected entry;
- d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected entry, wherein said updated set of displayed operators includes only operators from the set of operators, wherein the operators combined in a query with the selected entry and at least one of the set of entries from the database produce at least one valid result;
- e. selecting an operator from the updated displayed set of operators;
- f. updating said displayed set of entries in response to the selected operator, wherein said updated displayed set of entries includes only entries from the database, wherein the entries combined in a query with the selected entry and the selected operator produce at least one valid result;
- g. selecting one of said updated displayed set of entries;
- h. updating said displayed set of valid results according to a query based on the selected entries and the selected operator; and
- i. while said updated displayed set of valid results is not the desired result, repeating steps d. through h., based on all previously selected entries and operators, to select an additional operator and an additional entry for the database search query, and to update said displayed set of valid results."

Line 2 in claim 11, delete [the group] and insert - - "a group" - -.

Cancel claim 18.

Cancel claim 20.

Cancel claim 21.

Please rewrite claim 22 as follows:

"22. A method for displaying a start, progress, and end-results of an operation to enhance a probability of obtaining a desired result, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. displaying a set of operands, a set of operators, and a result obtained from a selection of at least one of the displayed set of operands;
- b. selecting an initial operand of said displayed set of operands;
- c. updating said displayed result based on said selected operand;
- d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected operand, wherein said updated set of displayed operators includes only operators from the set of operators, wherein the operators combined with the selected operand and at least one of the set of operands produce at least one updated result;
- e. selecting an operator from the updated displayed set of operators;
- f. updating said displayed set of operands in response to the selected operator, wherein said updated displayed set of operands includes only operands from the database of operands, wherein the operands combined with the selected operand and the selected operator produce at least one updated result;
- g. selecting one of said updated displayed set of operands;
- h. updating said displayed result based on said selected operands and the selected operator; and

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i. while the updated displayed result is not the desired result, repeating steps d. through h., based on all previously selected operands and operators, to select an additional operator and an additional operand for the database search, and for updating said displayed result.”

Please rewrite claim 23 as follows:

“23. The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer program product;

said computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having thereon a computer code means, wherein the computer code means is loaded by a computer and directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and

wherein said procedure being executed is based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.”

Please rewrite claim 24 as follows:

“24. The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer program element stored in a computer readable medium;

said program element comprising a computer code means, wherein the computer code means is loaded by a computer and directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and

wherein said execution of said procedure is based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.”

Please rewrite claim 25 as follows:

“25. The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer readable medium;

said computer readable medium having a computer program recorded thereon, wherein the computer program is loaded by a computer and directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and

wherein said execution of said procedure being based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.”

Please rewrite claim 26 as follows:

“26. A method for displaying a progress and results of a database search until a desired result is displayed, said method comprising the steps of:

a. displaying a set of entries from a database and a set of operators, wherein ones of said displayed set of entries and ones of said set of displayed operators are selected to form a database search query for producing a result;

b. selecting an initial entry of said displayed set of entries;

c. displaying at least one valid result based on said selected entry;

d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected entry,

wherein said updated set of displayed operators includes only operators from the set of

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operators producing at least one valid result when the operators are selected with the selected entry and an additional entry from the set of entries;

e. selecting an operator from the updated displayed set of operators;

f. updating said displayed set of entries in response to the selected operator, wherein said updated displayed set of entries includes only entries from the database of entries, wherein the entries combined with the selected entry and the selected operator produce at least one valid result;

g. selecting one of said updated displayed set of entries; and

h. updating said at least one displayed valid result based on the selected entries and the selected operator,

wherein said database search is completed when the at least one updated displayed result is the desired result, or steps d. through h. are repeated until the at least one updated displayed result is the desired result.”

Please rewrite claim 27 as follows:

“27. A method for displaying a progress and results of a database search until a desired result is achieved, said method comprising the steps of:

a. supplying a set of entries from a database and a set of operators, wherein ones of said supplied set of entries and ones of said supplied set of operators are selected to form a database search query for producing valid results;

b. selecting an initial entry of said set of entries;

c. supplying a set of valid results from a query based on said selected entry;

- d. updating said supplied set of operators based on said selected entry, wherein said updated supplied set of operators includes only operators from the set of operators, wherein the operators combined in a query with the selected entry and at least one of the set of entries from the database produce at least one valid result;
- e. selecting an operator from the updated supplied set of operators;
- f. updating said supplied set of entries in response to the selected operator, wherein said updated supplied set of entries includes only entries from the database, wherein the entries combined in a query with the selected entry and the selected operator produce at least one valid result;
- g. selecting one of said updated supplied set of entries;
- h. updating said supplied set of valid results according to a query based on the selected entries and the selected operator; and
- i. while said updated supplied set of valid results is not the desired result, repeating steps d. through h. based on all previously selected entries and operators, to select an additional operator and an additional entry for the database search query, and to update said supplied set of valid results."

The claims 1-7, 9-17, and 22-27 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 22-27 are allowed.

Reason For Indicating Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 22, 26, and 27 identify the distinct features, "displaying a set of entries from a database and a set of operators, wherein ones of said displayed set of entries and ones of said displayed set of operators are selected to form a database search query for producing valid results; selecting an initial entry of said displayed set of entries; displaying a set of valid results from a query based on said selected entry; updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected entry, wherein said updated set of displayed operators includes only operators from the set of operators, wherein the operators combined in a query with the selected entry and at least one of the set of entries from the database produce at least one valid result; selecting an operator from the updated displayed set of operators; updating said displayed set of entries in response to the selected operator, wherein said updated displayed set of entries includes only entries from the database, wherein the entries combined in a query with the selected entry and the selected operator produce at least one valid result; selecting one of said updated displayed set of entries; updating said displayed set of valid results according to a query based on the selected entries and the selected operator; and while said updated displayed set of valid results is not the desired result, repeating steps d. through h., based on all previously selected entries and operators, to select an additional operator and an additional entry for the database search query, and to update said displayed set of valid results." The closest prior art, Wasilewski (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,275) disclosing a graphical user search interface displaying entries, operators, and results, fails to suggest the claimed limitations as mentioned above in


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combination with other claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims 1-7, 9-17, and 22-27 are hereby allowed.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M-F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E. BREENE can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joon Hwang 
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

8/12/05


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